

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/551,364

Applicant(s)

SIMONOFF, ADAM J.

Examiner

Melvin H. Pollack

Art Unit

2145

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment submitted 9/15/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 85,87-92,94-99,101-106 and 108-112.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.


THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☒ Other see attached office action.

MHP


JASON CARBONE
S/B A2245

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 85, 87-92, 94-99, 101-106, and 108-112 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the examiner agrees with the applicant regarding the novelty and non-obviousness of the currently drawn claims.
3. Claims 85, 92, 99 and 106 are drawn to a method and system in which a new client may join an existing whiteboard session. A determination is made as to which of the currently active whiteboard clients has been part of the session for the longest period of time, and this client is tapped to provide the new user with objects in order to update the new user and allow him to catch up to the particular point of the conference.
4. In the environment of conferencing elements (whiteboards, forums, bulletin boards, etc.), the art is drawn to the updating of a new user being performed either by a server acting without active client input (i.e. the server stores all objects locally) or by a client designated as a group leader, such as an invitor or an initiator of a conference. The examiner has determined that the applicant is correct that the conference leader may not be the oldest client (P. 13, lines 17-18), and further that such above systems would not have a determination mechanism nor any motivation to add such a mechanism (P. 13, lines 23-24). As such, the method of adding a new whiteboard client is both novel and non-obvious.
5. Claims 87, 88, 94, 95, 101, 102, 108, and 109 inherit the allowability of the above claims. In addition, these claims add limitations regarding determination of a privilege level for each client, the privilege level being used to determine which objects to send and which objects to withhold. (For example, a clearance level such as secret or top secret). This privilege level is

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used in tandem with the oldest member designation in order to determine the client to perform the updating. The privilege level is also used to allow clients of lower privilege to participate in the conference but to limit the sent information on a "need to know" basis. These features, when added to the limitations above, are further novel and non-obvious.

6. Claims 89-91, 96-98, 103-105, and 110-112 inherit the allowability of the above claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. They regard further background on the whiteboard updating process.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin H. Pollack whose telephone number is (571) 272-3887. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-4:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Cardone can be reached on (571) 272-3933. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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17 November 2005



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